

BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.



Annual Reports
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and the
Sanitary Inspector
FOR 1921.



STOURBRIDGE :
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BOROUGH OF STOURBRIDGE.

Mayor :

ALDERMAN LT.-COL. A. H. MOODY, C.B.E., C.C., J.P.

Deputy Mayor :

COUNCILLOR CHAS. S. HALL.

SANITARY COMMITTEE.

Councillor L. J. Cook, *Chairman.*

Alderman W. Waugh.	Councillor T. Jones.
Councillor H. A. Canadine	„ S. Keeble.
„ Mrs. Francis	„ S. E. Merifield.
„ A. H. Guest	„ J. Sutton.
„ J. Harrington.	„ S. Wright.

Medical Officer of Health.

JOSEPH R. SINTON, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.

Sanitary Inspector :

ARTHUR KENT, F.S.I.A., A.R.S.I., Cert. Meat and Food Inspector.

Assistant :

G. T. H. BLACKIE, C.R.S.I.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

Together with Vital Statistics for the Year 1921.

TO THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND MEMBERS OF THE STOURBRIDGE
TOWN COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN.

I have the honour to present to you my Report for the year 1921, being my fourth Annual Report.

In accordance with the instructions of the Ministry of Health, this Report is curtailed, and the details are those which the Ministry suggest should be included.

I. General Statistics.

Area of the District	...	...	...	1920 acres
Population according to figures supplied after the Census in 1921	...	...	...	18023
Population, figures supplied by Registrar General	...	...	...	18,190
Number of inhabited houses	...	...	...	4,251
Number of families or separate occupiers	...	...	...	4608 approx.
Rateable Value	...	...	...	£71673
Sum represented by a penny rate	...	...	...	£268 (net)

2. Extracts from Vital Statistics for the Year.

	M.	F.	Total.
Births—Legitimate	192	204	396
Illegitimate	6	18	24
		Total	420
Birth Rate	...	...	23.09
Birth Rate for England and Wales	...	...	22.4
Deaths—Males	...	...	118
Females	...	...	105
		Total	223
Death Rate	...	...	12.26
Death Rate for England and Wales	...	...	12.1

No women died in consequence of childbirth.

Infantile Deaths.

Total Deaths of Infants under one year, 22,(Males 12, Females 10). There were no deaths of illegitimate infants.

Infantile Death Rate per 1000 births—52.38.

Infantile Death Rate, England and Wales, 83 per 1000 births.

The causes of deaths were as follows :—Premature Birth 4, Broncho-Pneumonia 3, Bronchitis 2, Enteritis 3, Meningitis 2, Congenital Heart Disease 3, Congenital Debility 1, Enlarged Thymus Gland 1, Difficult Birth 1, Inattention at Premature Birth 1, Diphtheria 1.

Zymotic Diseases.

There were no deaths from Measles. One death from Whooping Cough. Three deaths from Diarrhoea in children under 2 years of age.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR.

Disease.	Ages.												Total No. of Cases	Cases admit- ed to Hos- pital.	Deaths
	Un- der 1 yr.	1 to 2 yrs.	2 to 3 yrs.	3 to 4 yrs.	4 to 5 yrs.	5 to 10 years,	10 to 15 years,	15 to 20 yrs.	20 to 35 yrs.	35 to 45 yrs.	45 to 65 yrs.	65 and up- ward			
Diphtheria ...	2	3	5	5	5	11	9	3	3	1	—	—	47	30	6
Scarlet Fever	—	—	2	1	4	22	12	—	1	1	—	—	43	30	—
Puerperal Fever ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—
Pnuemonia ...	2	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	6	7	6	3	27	—	11
Erysipelas ...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	3	—	1
Tuberculosis Pulmonary M	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	4	2	2	—	12	—	11
„ F	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	6	2	—	—	8	—	8
Total ...	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2	10	4	2	—	20	—	19
Tuberculosis Non-Pulmon- ary M	—	—	—	—	3	1	—	1	1	1	—	—	7	—	2
„ F	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Total ...	—	—	—	—	3	1	1	2	1	1	—	—	9	—	4

Disease	Cases.			Vision Unim- paired.	Vision Im- paired.	Total Blind- ness.	Deaths.
	Notified	Treated at Home	Treated in Hos- pital				
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	8	8	0	6	2 still under treat- ment.	0	0

4. Causes of Sickness.

Influenza at the latter end of the year was widespread but very mild in character.

No other causes of sickness or invalidity were noteworthy.

5. Nursing Arrangements, Hospitals and Institutions.

Professional Nursing at home. The Stourbridge District Nursing Association, which is a voluntary organization, employs 3 Nurses, whose services are available for any resident. A portion of the District, viz., Upper Swinford, has a Parochial Nurse.

The Stourbridge Dispensary is a voluntary dispensary under the supervision of a Resident Medical Officer.

There is no provision for professional nursing of cases of Infectious Disease treated at home.

Midwives. The Midwives Act is administered by the County Council.

The Maternity and Infant Welfare Centre at No. 40, New Road, is under the control of a Voluntary Committee and a contribution is made by the Town Council to the funds of this Committee.

A School Clinic at the Infant Welfare Centre and a Tuberculosis Clinic at the Dispensary are controlled by the County Council.

Sanatorium treatment of Tuberculosis is administered by the County Council.

There is no provision for the treatment of Venereal Diseases in the Borough, but cases are treated, amongst other places, at the Corbett Hospital, which is just outside the Borough boundary.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the Local Authority or the County Council :—

Tuberculosis	...	Hayley Green and Knightwick, both situated outside the Borough and under the control of the County Council.
Maternity	...	None.
Children	...	None.
Fever ...	...	Stourbridge and Halesowen Hospital.
Smallpox	...	Ditto.
Other ...	...	Corbett Hospital, Amblecote, Staffs., supported by this and the surrounding districts.

The Treatment of Tuberculosis, including Sanatoria, is under the control of the County Council.

The Infectious Diseases Hospital at Hayley Green, as well as a Smallpox Hospital, are provided by the Local Authorities of the Borough of Stourbridge, Urban District Council of Lye and Wollescote, and the Rural District Council of Halesowen.

The Corbett General Hospital is situated in the Urban District of Amblecote and is supported by this and the adjoining districts.

Ambulance Facilities :—

- (a) For Infectious Cases an ambulance is provided by the Joint Infectious Diseases Hospital.
- (b) For Non-Infectious Cases. A Motor Ambulance, which is kept at the Fire Station, and a Motor Ambulance provided by the Territorial Association and kept at Mr. Weaver's Garage, High Street.

Health Visitor's Report.

Notifications of Births received from the County Medical Officer, January 1st to December 31st, 1921 :—

Males	...	...	...	181
Females	...	...	...	211
Still Births	...	...	...	19
Number of Primary visits paid to homes	...	...	...	363
Total Number of Visits	...	...	...	3605

Attendances at Infant Consultation Centre :—

Number on Register, year ending Dec. 31st, 1921	...	...	...	402
Total number of attendances	...	...	...	3379
Average Weekly attendance	...	...	...	70.4

Dr. Lloyd Francis attends weekly on Tuesday afternoons.

Dried Milk and Virol are supplied at cost price where necessary.

The Ladies' of the Committee subscribe to a Milk Fund for very necessitous cases.

Two District Midwives are now employed in connection with the Centre.

6. Laboratory Work.

Bacteriological Examinations are carried out by the Analyst to the County Council.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is provided free of charge to local Medical Practitioners.

The following are the Adoptive Acts, Byelaws and Local Regulations relating to Public Health, in force in the District, with the date of adoption :—

Stourbridge Improvement Act	...	...	...	1866
Stourbridge Improvement Commissioners Act	...	...	...	1891
Infectious Disease Prevention Act, 1890	...	...	...	1891
Public Health Act Amendment Act, 1890	...	...	...	26 Nov. 1901
Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907	...	...	...	April, 1910
Housing of Working Classes Act, 1890, Part III.	...	...	...	Dec. 1901

Byelaws :—

New Streets and Buildings ...	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Nuisances ...	...	...	20th Oct., 1911
Offensive Trades ...	...	...	15th Sep. 1890
Slaughterhouses ...	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Tents, Vans, Sheds and Similar Structures ...	...	...	10th Jan., 1917
Common Lodging Houses ...	...	...	15th Sep., 1890
Houses Let in Lodgings ...	...	...	10th Jan., 1917
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops ...	...	...	26th June, 1916
Cleansing of Footpaths and Pavements and Cleansing of Earthclosets and Cesspools ...	...	...	10th Jan., 1917

7. Sanitary Administration.

The Report of the Sanitary Inspector, which follows this, gives details relating to Sanitary Administration in the Borough.

8. Public Health Staff.

The Staff consists of a part-time Medical Officer of Health and a whole-time Sanitary Inspector. One half of the salaries of these Officers is contributed by Exchequer grants.

The Sanitary Inspector has the diplomas of the Royal Sanitary Institute as Sanitary Inspector, and Inspector of Meat and other Foods. The Sanitary Inspector also acts as Inspector under the Petroleum Acts and Shops Acts.

There is also a Clerk—Assistant to the Sanitary Inspector—who holds the Inspector's qualification of the Royal Sanitary Institute.

9. Housing.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—

(a) Total ...	...	...	75
(b) As part of a Municipal Housing Scheme ...	...	...	67

1.—Unfit Dwelling Houses. Inspection :—

(1) Total number of Dwelling Houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	587
(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations, 1910 ...	...	38
(3) Number of Dwelling Houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation		0
(4) Number of Dwelling Houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation ...	...	115

2.—Remedy of defects without Service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective Dwelling Houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	58
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3.—Action under Statutory Powers :—

(a) Proceedings under Section 28 of the Housing Town Planning, &c., Act, 1919 :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repairs	8
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses which were rendered fit :—

(a) By Owners	5
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
---	-----	-----	-----	---

(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders became operative in pursuance of declarations by Owners of intention to close	1
--	-----	-----	-----	---

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :—

(1) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Notices were sent requiring defects to be remedied	111
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in which defects were remedied :—

(a) By Owners	76
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(b) By Local Authority in default of Owners	0
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(c) Proceedings under Sections 17 and 18 of the Housing, Town Planning &c., Act, 1909 :—

(1) Number of Representations made with a view to the making of Closing Orders	0
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(2) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made	0
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(3) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the Dwelling Houses having been rendered fit	9
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(4) Number of Dwelling Houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	3
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(5) Number of Dwelling Houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	3
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I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

J. R. SINTON,

Medical Officer of Health.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SANITARY INSPECTOR for the Year 1921.

TO HIS WORSHIP THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN, AND MEMBERS
OF THE STOURBRIDGE TOWN COUNCIL.

MR. MAYOR AND GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour to submit to you a report of the work done in my department during the year 1921, being my Twenty-first Annual Report.

Complaints.—During the year, 115 complaints were received relating to various nuisances and insanitary conditions.

Inspection of District.—The number of inspections and re-inspections made during the year was 2304. These were as follows:—General inspections of houses and premises, 549; Inspection under the Housing (Inspection of District Regulations) 38; Infectious disease, 102; Tuberculosis Cases, 29; Re-inspections and re-visits, 1273; Slaughter-houses, 176; Cowsheds, 41; Workshops, 35; Bakehouses, 18; Vans, 43; Total, 2304.

In making these inspections 1391 sanitary defects, nuisances or contraventions of your Byelaws were found. There were 1691 defects not remedied at the end of 1920 and these, together with the 1391 defects met with during the year 1921, make a total of 3082 insanitary conditions requiring attention.

1083 defects were remedied during the year, thus leaving 1999 insanitary conditions unabated.

The large number of defects not remedied is accounted for by reason of some of the defects only at houses having been attended to, leaving other work to be done later. In these cases the records of the work done will be completed when the work is finished.

The drains at 16 premises were tested with the Smoke Machine.

Notices.—143 written or preliminary intimation notices were sent during the year, mostly being letters setting out in detail the defects found, and the suggested alterations or remedies. The latter being in the form of a general specification. Many of the Notices referred to several houses, as only one letter or preliminary Notice is sent in those cases where several adjoining houses belong to one Owner.

294 Houses or premises were dealt with in the 143 Notices.

In many cases, particularly when drains are obstructed, the persons concerned are interviewed; and the defects are remedied without Notices being served. 109 Notices were complied with at the end of the year.

In those cases where the preliminary Notices are not complied with, the matters are reported to your Sanitary Committee in my Monthly Report, and under your instructions, upon the recommendation of the Sanitary Committee, 133 Statutory Notices were served, as follows:—

Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 94 (Abatement of Nuisances) ...	62
Public Health Act, 1875, Sec. 36 (Provision of W.C.'s or Ashbins) ...	28
Public Health Acts Amend. Act, 1907, Sec. 49 (to provide sinks) ...	12
Housing, Town Planning, etc., Act, 1909, 18 (2) (Demolition Orders)	6
Act, 1919, Sec. 28 (to repair houses)	9
Act, 1909, Sec. 17 (4) (Notices on Occupiers) ...	1
Act, 1909, Sec. 17 (6) (Rescission of Closing Orders) ...	2
Towns Improvement Clauses Act, 1847 (Sec. 74) ...	5
Infectious Diseases Prevention Act, 1890, Sec. 5 (to cleanse and disinfect houses) ...	8

133

At the end of the year 85 of these Notices had been complied with.

Total number of letters written 454.

Prosecutions.—The following legal proceedings were taken during the year.

Date.	Premises.	Offence.	Result.
4th Feb.	5, Birmingham St.	For occupying a house after Closing Order. Sec. 32, H.T.P.A., 1919. (Second prosecution).	Fined £1 5s. od.
25th Feb.	100 Bridgnorth Rd.	Premises in such state as to be a nuisance. Sec. 94, P.H.A., 1875.	Orders made to execute certain work. (These cases had been adjourned on 3 occasions).
	101 do.		

Offensive Trades.—The following Offensive Trades are carried on in the district :—Fish Fryers, 7 ; Hide and Skin Dealers, 1 ; Fat Melter, 1 ; Leather Dresser, 1 ; Tripe Boilers, 4. One application for permission to commence a Fish Frying business was granted and one refused.

Bakehouses.—There are 14 Bakehouses, 3 of which are Factories. Extensive alterations to one Bakehouse were carried out.

Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops.—23 Persons are registered as Milk Sellers, 15 of whom are Cow-keepers in the Borough. There are approximately 89 Cows kept.

Factory and Workshop Act.—At the end of the year there were 232 Workshops on the Register.

Common Lodging Houses.—There is one old registered house and one licensed house. The returns of the number of lodgers sleeping at these houses during the year were as follows :—(The figures represent the number of times the beds were occupied, and not the individual lodgers staying at the houses ; thus one person lodging at a house for seven nights is counted seven times).

Adult Lodgers.		Lodgers above 10 and under 21		Lodgers under 10 years.		Total
Males.	Females	Males.	Females	Males.	Females	
9069	1240	117	17	20	161	10624

Outworkers' Lists.—Thirty lists of Outworkers were received during the year, containing the names of 52 Outworkers, 33 of whom resided outside the Borough.

The names of 4 Outworkers, resident in the Borough, were received from other Local Authorities.

Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations.—During the year 38 houses were inspected under the above Regulations.

No Closing Orders were made by the Town Council, but the Owner of No. 3, High Street gave notice of intention to close this house in consequence of a Notice under Section 28 of the Housing, Town Planning, etc, Act, 1919, having been served. This house was subsequently given to the Town Council who demolished it in 1922.

At the Town Council Meeting on 29th November, 1920, the question of demolition of Nos. 1, 3 and 5, Birmingham Street, was considered, and Notices served fixing the 18th January, 1921, as the date of further consideration, and on the latter date the Sanitary Committee recommended that Demolition Orders should be made. The houses were subsequently demolished by the Owner.

Nos. 1 and 3, Vicarage Road, have been repaired, and the Closing Orders rescinded.

Appeals to the Ministry of Health were made against the Closing Orders relating to Nos. 4, 5 and 6 Green Street, and Nos. 7, 8 and 9, and Nos. 1 and 2 at rear of 7 and 8 Green Street.

An Inquiry was held on 4th May, 1921, in respect of the Appeal against the Closing Orders of the latter five houses. The decision was adjourned to enable the Owner, within four months, to submit a scheme for the reconstruction and repair of these houses. A specification was submitted early in 1921, but the Owner subsequently informed the Ministry that the work could not be carried out whilst the houses were occupied. In May 1921, the Ministry sent an abridged specification to the Owner and requested that work specified should be done. At the end of the year this request had not been complied with.

An Inquiry in respect of an Appeal against the Closing Orders relating to Nos. 4, 5 and 6 Green Street, was held on 20th May, 1920. The Appeal in these cases was dismissed by the Ministry of Health. The Ministry requested, in view of the general house shortage, that the Town Council would refrain from putting the Closing Orders into execution for the present. Considerable correspondence with the Ministry and the legal representative of the Owners has since taken place. At the end of the year the matter was still under consideration.

Sanitary Condition of Theatres, Etc.—In accordance with the Home Office Circular of 25th August, 1920, I made inspections, by instructions of the Sanitary Committee, of the Theatre and the two Cinema Houses in the Town. On 16th November, 1920, I submitted a report of the condition of the Theatre, and was instructed to send a copy to the Local Magistrates' Clerk. Early in 1922, instructions were given by the Town Council to oppose the application for the renewal of the license. This was subsequently done.

Slaughterhouses.—In 1914, there were 15 Slaughterhouses, 10 being subject to annual licenses. There are now 12 Slaughterhouses. One new annual license in respect of premises previously used as a Slaughterhouse was granted. One annually licensed slaughterhouse is no longer in use.

The annually licensed places are as follows :—

Mr. Wm. Harris	...	...	Bridgnorth Road
Mr. G. A. Parkes	...	...	Bridgnorth Road
Mr. T. W. Jones and Mr. G. Beddoes	...	...	Rear 7 Coventry Street
Messrs. H. and J. Parkes	...	...	Rear 8 Coventry Street
Mr. S. C. Mason	...	...	Rear 7 Coventry Street
Mr. W. A. A. Broadway	...	...	Enville Street
Mr. F. T. White	...	...	Enville Street
Mr. W. Yardley	...	...	Hagley Road
Mr. T. V. Parkes	...	...	The Heath
Mr. P. B. Barnes	...	...	33 Worcester Street

The other Slaughterhouses being :—

Mr. R. Tottey	...	...	High Street
Mr. S. Hill	...	...	Hagley Road

Public Abattoir.—This matter was considered in 1911 but not proceeded with on account of local opposition. In February, 1919, the matter again came before your Sanitary Committee, but no definite action has yet been taken.

Meat and Food Inspection.—The following articles of Food were condemned during the year :—24lb. prawns, 2 boxes kippers, all the internal organs of a heifer, carcase of a lamb, 40lbs. of salted beef, and the following canned goods :—13 tins peaches, 3 pineapple, 9 tomatoes, 2 raspberries, 3 beef, 1 tongue and 2 salmon.

Disinfection.—157 Houses were disinfected and 130 lots of bedding and clothing. At 9 houses the walls of the rooms which had been occupied by Tuberculosis patients, were stripped of wallpaper, and the rooms sprayed.

Water Closets.—No conversions of privies into water closets were done during the year, but 13 additional water closets were provided, and 4 Slop W. C.'s were converted into fresh-water flushing W.C.'s.

The number of privies converted into water closets since 1901, also the additional W.C.'s provided, are as follows. (There are very few privies remaining, and these are in localities where there are no sewers).

W.C.'s in place of privies	...	...	1058
Additional W.C.'s provided	...	...	144
Fresh-water flush W.C.'s provided in place of slop W.C.'s	...	...	38

Shops' Act.—There are 497 Shops on the Register. No legal proceedings were instituted, but many traders were warned respecting the exhibition of Notices of Assistants' half-holiday and provision of seats, and for keeping their shops open after the hour for closing.

Petroleum Acts.—During the year 43 licenses to store Petrol (24 to store Petrol only, 17 to store Petrol and Carbide of Calcium, and 2 to store Carbide of Calcium) were issued.

I am,

Mr. Mayor and Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant,

ARTHUR KENT,

Sanitary Inspector.